

REUTERS

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA
NOVEMBER 5, 1964

CPYRGHT

R16

CPYRGHT

HONG KONG, NOV. 5 (REUTERS) - MRS. MARY DOWNEY OF NEW BRITAIN, CONN., TODAY WEPT AS SHE CROSSED THE BORDER INTO COMMUNIST CHINA ON HER FOURTH VISIT TO SEE HER IMPRISONED SON JOHN.

MRS. DOWNEY, 67, A WIDOW WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ANOTHER SON, WILLIAM, AS SHE WALKED ACROSS THE FRONTIER BRIDGE AT LOWU. THE PARTY LATER TRAVELLED TO CANTON AND TOMORROW WILL FLY TO PEKING.

JOHN DOWNEY, 34, WAS CAPTURED BY THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS IN 1952 DURING THE KOREAN WAR FOR ESPIONAGE AND SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN 1954.

IT WAS ALLEGED HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (C.I.A.).

THIS WAS MRS. DOWNEY'S FOURTH TRIP TO SEE HER SON SINCE 1952. HER LAST TRIP WAS IN JULY, 1962.

OVERCOME WITH EMOTION SHE TOLD NEWSMEN SHE HAS NOT MADE A PLEA FOR HER SON'S RELEASE AND HAS NO PLANS TO TRY AND SEE COMMUNIST OFFICIALS.

BUT SHE SAID SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN OPTIMISTIC THAT HE WOULD BE RELEASED BEFORE THE END OF HIS LIFE TERM.

EJM 5:38A